Appl. No. 10/627,492
Amdt. Dated December 18, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2006

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed September 21, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-29 and 37-49 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 37, and 49 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been cosmetically amended herein, and Claims 30-36 were previously canceled. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, it is alleged that the claims are directed to a signal. Applicants do not agree with the interpretation of the claims provided in the Office action. Nonetheless, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have cosmetically amended independent Claim 1 herein to even more explicitly recite that the database is stored on at least one computer-readable physical medium. Applicants submit that these claims are clearly directed to statutory subject matter.

In view of the amendments to Claims 1-14, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 101 rejection is requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-29 and 37-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,879,976 (Brookler et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 6,804,664 (Hartman et al.), and Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,134,500 (Tang et al.) and Hartman et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a computer-readable medium having a database stored thereon that is compatible with multiple end-user systems and that includes a data section having a plurality of data records, and a structure section having at least a feature mask, and recites, *inter alia*, the feature mask including data that indicates whether a

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particular one of the data records is compatible with one or more of the end-user systems.

Independent Claim 15 relates to a method of generating a database that is compatible with multiple end-user systems that includes generating a data section, storing a plurality of data records in the data section, and recites, *inter alia*, generating a feature mask that includes data that indicates whether a particular one of the stored data records is compatible with one or more of the end-user systems.

Independent Claim 37 relates to a computer system that includes a processor, memory in operable communication with the processor, and a database stored in the memory that is compatible with multiple end-user systems and that includes a data section having a plurality of data records, and a structure section having at least a feature mask, and recites, *inter alia*, the feature mask including data that indicates whether a particular one of the data records is compatible with one or more of the end-user systems.

Brookler et al. relates to a system and method of indexing data using bit vectors, and discloses a database management system having data stored therein in tables defined by a stored schema. Brookler et al. further discloses the use of a bit vector index (BVI) to augment the standard indexing schem of a typical relational database management system. According to Brookler et al. a BVI is a collection of bit vectors (BVs) that comprise an index for a particular column in a table of the database (col. 4, ll. 62-66). More specifically, a BVI is created for each matching column pair that relates a lookup field in an indexed table to a set of values in a lookup table (col. 5, ll. 8-10). In a preferred embodiment, a BVI is an array structure, such as BVIs 303 and 304, that includes multiple entries, with each entry containing a BV and the indexed value being a pointer into the array (col. 6, ll. 10-13). Thus, each BV of a BVI identifies the records in an indexed table that correspond to one particular value in a lookup table (col. 6, ll. 18-20).

In the Office action it is alleged that Brookler et al. discloses a structure section. In support of this, the Office action once again recites the definition of a database schema from the Microsoft Computer Dictionary. Consistent with what Applicant argued in the previous response, the schema of a database has nothing whatsoever to do with whether or not it includes a structure section, but merely defines, as the definition in Microsoft

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Dictionary indicates, the formal description of the overall structure of a database. That is, the names of the tables, the names of the columns of each table, and the type and other attributes of each column. Just because a database is defined by a schema, which just about every database is, does not mean that it includes a structure section.

The Office action, at page 23, somehow attempts to refute the above arguments by pointing out that col. 1, ll. 28-29 of Brookler et al. states that "a schema defines the structure of a database." Again, it is undisputed that most, if not all, databases have a "structure." However, not all databases, even those with a defined "structure," include a structure section.

The Office action once again further relies on Hartman et al. as disclosing a feature mask that includes data that indicates whether a particular one of the data records in a database data section is compatible with one or more end-user systems. Applicants, as noted in the previous response, do not agree that Hartman et al. even remotely discloses this feature, let alone provides any suggestion or motivation for providing this feature.

Hartman et al. relates to a database that is structured to enable faster, more efficient queries. To do so, the data to be stored in the database is characterized as a number of questions, and each record in the database comprises bit map groups that correspond to the answers to the questions. The answers may be binary attributes, range attributes, and string attributes, depending on the question type. With this type of structure, database queries are obtained by simple bit-wise Boolean operations of the records in the database, beginning first with binary attribute matching, then range attribute matching, and finally string attribute matching. With each attribute matching operation, various of the records in the database are eliminated from the query, thus making the query more efficient (col. 8, l. 9 through col. 12, l. 11).

The Office action alleges that Hartman et al. discloses the claimed structure section and feature mask at column 9, l. 44 through col. 10, l. 28. However, what is disclosed in this section of Hartman et al. is the methodology that is employed during the binary attribute matching operation to efficiently determine whether a query profile matches a section (or chunk) of a record that is stored in a database. This clearly does not

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disclose, or even remotely suggest, providing a database with a structure section that includes a feature mask having data that indicates whether a particular data record is compatible with one or more end-user systems.

The Examiner, at page 23 of the Office action, expresses her disagreement with the above-noted assessment of Hartman et al. by making the conclusory statement that "[t]he query profile can represent the user profile which is then matched against the records in the database to determine if the two records match, which is considered to represent compatibility." This statement is, of course, one that is readily and conveniently made with the ready knowledge of Applicants' own disclosure. Nonetheless, the capability of determining whether two records match is not even remotely synonymous with providing a feature mask that includes data that indicates whether a particular one of the data records is compatible with one or more of the end-user systems.

Hence, Applicants once again submit that the combination of Brookler et al. and Hartman et al. fails to disclose, or even remotely suggest, at least the above-identified features of independent Claims 1, 15, and 37.

As to the rejection of independent Claim 49, this claim, consistent with the other independent claims, recites, *inter alia*, a structure section that includes a feature mask, the feature mask including data that indicates whether a particular one of the navigational data records is compatible with one or more of the flight management systems. As noted above, neither Brookler et al. nor Hartman et al. are understood to disclose or suggest at least this feature. Moreover, without conceding that Tang et al. discloses or suggests what is alleged in the Office action, upon review of this reference, Applicants submit that it also fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that independent Claims 1, 15, 37, and 49, and dependent Claims 2-14, 16-29, and 38-48 are non-obvious. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Based on the above, Claims 1-29 and 37-49 are patentable over the citations of record. The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.
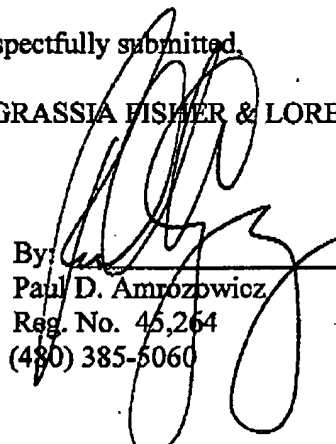
If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

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